



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: **A-0**

August 8, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE NEWHALL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Appoint Mrs. Valerie Thomas to the Board of Directors of the Newhall County Water District.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On May 24, 2002, Mr. Dick Unger, a Board member for the Newhall County Water District, resigned from his position as a Director of this Board because he relocated his residency outside the boundaries of the District.

Following the resignation of Mr. Unger, six people applied for the Board vacancy and were interviewed by the Board. Two of those individuals subsequently withdrew their names from consideration. The District's Board failed to select, within 60 days, a replacement for Mr. Unger. Also, two additional persons submitted applications on July 21 and 23, 2002.

In response to a motion made by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and unanimously approved by your Board on August 6, 2002, Synopsis No. 87, Public Works has reviewed the five remaining candidates to fill the vacancy on the District's Board.

Based upon our review of the eight candidates' applications, we found all of them to be qualified to be a member on the District's Board. However, in our opinion, we found Mrs. Valerie Thomas to be the best qualified of the candidates to fill the vacancy on the District's Board. Our recommendation is based upon Mrs. Thomas' recent previous four years experience as a member of the District's Board. In addition, Mrs. Thomas is the only candidate who demonstrated her commitment to be on the Board by running for office in the last election. In a close election with 4 candidates running, she fell short by a mere 45 votes of being elected.

#### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence since the appointment will fill the vacancy on the District's Board.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

No negative fiscal impact or increase in net County cost.

#### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The process by which to fill the vacancy is contained in Section 1780 of the California Government Code. That section gives the District's Board 60 days to either appoint a replacement or call for an election. The 60 days expired on or about July 23, 2002, with no action having been taken by the District's Board. Because the District's Board failed to act, state law provides an opportunity for your Board to either fill the vacancy or order an election. If your Board desires to take such action, the law requires that your Board do so within 90 days of the vacancy. The 90 days expire on or about August 22, 2002. Therefore, your Board would have to take action at your Board's August 20, 2002, meeting. If your Board does not act before August 22, 2002, then state law requires that the District's Board call for an election. The term of the new appointee will expire in fall 2003.

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

This action will have no negative impact on current County services.

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**CONCLUSION**

Enclosed are copies of the applications and resumes of all candidates, including those who withdrew, as well as the resignation letter from Mr. Unger.

The Executive Office's Statement of Qualifications has been completed by Mrs. Thomas and is also enclosed.

Please return one approved copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

DDE:plg  
NEWHALLWATER

Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel